

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel the current slate of claims (21, 24 - 26, and 28 - 37), in favor of the following new slate of claims, 38 - 57.

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38. A melting plate candle comprising a meltable solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes, a consumable wick, and a heat conductive concave melting plate upon which said fuel rests, said melting plate comprising a heat conductive lobe by which heat is conducted from a flame upon said wick to said melting plate whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, said melting plate being configured to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel to said wick for combustion, and said plate and said lobe are configured so as to cooperatively engage said fuel.

39. The melting plate candle of claim 38, wherein said meltable solid fuel comprises a replaceable fuel element consisting of a consumable wick and a solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage said heat conductive melting plate and lobe.

40. The melting plate candle of claim 39, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

41. The melting plate candle of claim 38, wherein the replaceable fuel element consists essentially of a meltable solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage a consumable wick positioned on said heat conductive melting plate.

42. The melting plate candle of claim 41, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

43. The melting plate candle of Claim 38, wherein said heat conductive melting plate further comprises a wick holder with fins.

44. The melting plate candle of claim 43, wherein said meltable solid fuel comprises a replaceable fuel element consisting of a consumable wick and a solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage said heat conductive melting plate, lobe, and wick holder with fins.

45. The melting plate candle of claim 44, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

46. The melting plate candle of claim 43, wherein the replaceable fuel element consists essentially of a meltable solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage a consumable wick positioned in said wick holder with fins.

47. The melting plate candle of claim 46, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

48. A melting plate candle comprising a replaceable fuel element and a consumable wick, a fuel holder comprising a heat conductive melting plate having a heat conductive lobe to collect heat from a flame at said wick and conduct said heat to said replaceable fuel element to thereby melt said fuel and form a pool of liquid fuel on the surface of said melting plate, wherein said fuel holder is configured to position and engage said replaceable fuel element for rapid melting, and wherein said melting plate is shaped so as to cause said pool of liquid fuel to flow to said wick.

49. The melting plate candle of claim 48, wherein said replaceable fuel element comprises a consumable wick and a solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage said heat conductive melting plate and lobe.

50. The melting plate candle of claim 49, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick and wherein the temperature of said pool of liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 180° F. at a point about 10 mm from said wick, and about 160° F at a point about 20 mm from said wick.

51. The melting plate candle of claim 48, wherein the replaceable fuel element consists essentially of a meltable solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage a consumable wick positioned on said heat conductive melting plate.

52. The melting plate candle of claim 51, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

53. The melting plate candle of Claim 48, wherein said heat conductive melting plate further comprises a wick holder with fins.

54. The melting plate candle of claim 53, wherein said replaceable fuel element consists of a consumable wick and a solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage said heat conductive melting plate, lobe, and wick holder with fins.

55. The melting plate candle of claim 54, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.

56. The melting plate candle of claim 53, wherein said replaceable fuel element consists essentially of a meltable solid fuel configured to cooperatively engage a consumable wick positioned in said wick holder with fins.

57. The melting plate candle of claim 56, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface in close proximity but not in contact with said wick for ease of lighting said wick.